



Arlington Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Weds September 14, 2022 **Time:** 7:30 PM

Location: Meeting will be conducted remotely, via Zoom application

Present: Tim Lecuire, Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Ed Trembly, JoAnne Preston, Robin Bergman, Beth Melofchik, Gary Goldsmith

1. *Approve Regular Meeting Minutes*
 - August ATC Minutes – Approved unanimously
2. *Town Day (Sept 17) Planning.* Registration, Signup sheet for supplies/manning booth. Themes: adopt a tree, heat map, watering efforts (tree bag and watering can)
 - We have coverage for each shift
 - Will get the placement of booth Saturday morning
 - MEA has lots of supplies
 - Will focus on Adopt-A-Tree sign up
 - i. Talk it up
 - ii. Can do it live (on phone). Or, Steve said if we get email he would follow up, welcome them and sign them up
 - Tim will have supplies by tomorrow afternoon – MEA will stop by / chat
3. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)*
 - Tree Bylaw activity – projects
 - Not discussed
 - Tree hearing(s)
 - Selectboard appeal 261 Hillside – **will be continued**
 - Monday evening discussion
 - Educating the Select Board on Arlington as a Tree City – everything that DPW does and the community does to promote tree canopy and growth in town
 - Arlington Committee members that attended were frustrated.
 - Arlington Tree Committee needs to stay involved to sustain pressure on the SB
 - Susan proposed that ATC send the letter as a committee to the Select Board and CC all the other boards in town
 - Shows that ATC is taking a position
 - Steve suggested attachments as follows
 - Eliza suggested adding a photograph of the heat map
 - Susan suggested reciting preamble to Article 16
 - Unanimously accepted vote in favor of sending a letter
 - Susan also proposed that we cc other town committees and departments to ensure all are informed about tree priorities. CC: Town manager, Environmental Planner, Con Comm, Parks and Recreation, Open Space, Envision Arlington, Sustainable Arlington, ZBA, ARB, Housing Authority, School Committee, Planning Director
 - Unanimously accepted vote in favor of cc'ing the committees listed
 - Summer watering challenges debrief
 - Extreme weather protocol – How do we learn from this summer? Is there a way to prioritize Tree Watering during extreme drought and like this summer?
 - Challenges w hiring interns; job posting needs to be updated until filled. Post to Arl students and town notifications and Indeed
 - Summer plan - 5 crew members – 1 full time (40 hours) – 10 hours OT per week
 - Lost 1 staff during the summer
 - August storm damage took priority
 - Full capacity is 6 crew members

- Potential New system ideas – Tree Committee propose or send to Tim – Start a dropbox page with ideas for improving watering
 - 1 dedicated resource –
 - DPW purchased new pickup truck dedicated for watering. Seasonal job?
 - Use dedicated funding for outside contractor to handle emergencies
 - Ed suggested retired town employees – easier on liability
 - Park and Rec mowers move over to watering
 - Follow up with HR Job posting – eliminate submission deadline – also follow up – can it be a part time job or more than one part time
 - Add crew member and a deputy Tree Warden
 - Expand advertising
- Communication with new tree requesters
- Additional publicity help from town staff besides town notifications. Banners, sandwich boards,etc
- Tree health/management news
 - Beech tree blight – leaf disease. Most of Arlington's beech trees are on private property
 - Fungicide available – Can be injected into tree
 - Can we communicate to the E Arlington homeowners with large beech trees?
 - Mara to drop off flyers that Tim will provide
- Other Town projects involving trees
 - Arlington High School – tree protection staying on trees through end of month to allow turf to grow. Irrigation system is clearing functioning well.
 - Broadway trees and Mass Ave – suffering but getting watered 1-2 x's a week
 - Tim trying to identify what tree types are struggling and to avoid planting in the future

4. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Tree-related issues: Drake Village (Jo Ann asked Tim to require and other AHA sites, 38 Gray St property – Eliza reached out Gray St owner who is open to adding trees to property)
- Schedule meeting with Mike Ciampa to discuss private tree canopy concerns during build/renovation
 - MEA and Eliza to help all building permitted projects to encourage preserving trees. Encourage use of certified arborists in site planning – link to MA certified arborists website and other associations “highly recommended they reach out to a certified arborist to evaluate and preserve trees where possible”
- ATC will try to meet new planner Claire Ricker
- Review and revise mission statement and objectives. To be discussed in a future meeting
- Outreach to Town orgs. (ARB, ConComm, Open Space, Park & Rec, School Comm., ZBA, etc.) and updates on projects/policy involving trees
- Regional Tree Committee Meeting. Rpt from recent mtg. 8 towns represented; all sharing valuable info. Newton potentially regulating large trees on private property. Can we protect big trees?
- Adopt-A-Tree program. Additional publicity: Green Team, AHS students, etc. No discussion

5. *Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town Update*

- Proposed Tree for Grads program? Meeting with David Morgan. No discussion
- Back of Sidewalk (MGL Ch. 87) Program. No discussion

6. *New Business*

- Library presentation on 9/28. Susan Stamps.
- Hills' Hill Park and Rec development
 - Beth asked that ATC look at this project and ask for env impact study before plan moves forward
 - ATC will remain involved and propose moving pump track to another place
 - Possible tree inventory on Hill's Hill and Crusher Lot – ATC can request P&R to do? Won't it be part of the site plan? Encourage P&R to work with the Tree Warden – use a professional certified arborist.
Action: will reach out to Joe Connelly.
- Chloe Schadel Arlington High Community Service -

Meeting Adjourned: 9:35

Next Meeting: October 12, 2022